the year. This would give a good check on whether or not our figures are biased.'

I agree with Dr. Schaller's observations, but dispute his assumption that my low figure is due to certain areas having been left out of the reckoning. Some of us locals know the area quite intimately and my statement is based on observations made, over a period of time.

To get a tahr shot under licence passed as a saddle back exacting standards are employed. Having been used to such standards we tend to become cautious in the choice of our saddle backs. In defence of Dr. Schaller it must be said that not being used to these standards he has erred on the liberal side.

Several questions arise and for which answers are wanting.

When the percentage of young bucks is fairly high why should the saddle back population be so low? Whether the saddle mark vanishes and reappears depending upon the age of the tahr and season? Whether the saddle mark appears at a very late age? Whether some male tahr do not develop the saddle at all?

It has been observed in the Nilgiris that during certain years there is a much higher percentage of saddle backs (but never as high as even 5%) than during others. It is not always that a saddle back carries a longer pair of horns than a brown buck. Do these provide a key to some of the answers?

E. R. C. DAVIDAR

'Canowie',
Coonoor-1,
Nilgiris,
July 2, 1971.

3. BIRTH OF AN INDIAN PANGOLIN (*MANIS CRASSICAUDATA*) IN CAPTIVITY

A pregnant female of the Indian Pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*) with the Nandankanan Biological Park (Orissa) since 26.x.1971, gave birth to a male young on 17.xi.1971. The new-born young measured 30 cm from tip to tip including a 12·5 cm long tail and weighed 235 gm. The eyes were open at birth and the young was able to crawl over the mother's body soon after birth. The new-born young had soft scales and coarse grey hairs were present on the under-surface of almost all the scales throughout the body and projecting beyond the scales. After delivery the mother weighed 10·6 kg. The mother along with the young curled up keeping the young under the ventral part of her body and made a hissing sound as a sign of annoyance when disturbed. The young when

handled could not curl up like the adults. It was rejected by the mother on the 4th day, and died the next day.

There is no mention of weight, size and condition of the eyes of the new-born young in the available literature. There are records of birth of this species in India in July (Prater 1971, BOOK OF INDIAN ANIMALS) and in November (Asdell 1964, PATTERNS OF MAMMALIAN REPRODUCTION).

VET. ASST. SURGEON, L. N. ACHARJYO
NANDANKANAN ZOO,
P.O. BARANG, (CUTTACK).

WILD LIFE CONSERVATION OFFICER, R. MISRA
ORISSA, CUTTACK-1,
January 5, 1972.

4. SOME OBSERVATIONS ON DISTRIBUTION OF ZOO BIRTHS AMONG COMMON WILD MAMMALS[1]

Acharjyo (1970) noted birth weight, size, gestation period, litter size, etc., of some common wild mammals maintained at the State Biological Park, Nandankanan (Orissa). In this paper monthwise distribution of zoo births among twelve species of wild mammals observed at the State Biological Park, Nandankanan (Orissa) during the past nine years and five months (from 29.xii.60 to 31.v.70) are reported.

OBSERVATIONS AND DISCUSSION

1. **Spotted Deer** (*Axis axis*)

A total number of 110 births (59 ♂♂, 51 ♀♀) have been recorded here as follows. January, 10; February, 28; March, 22; April, 12; May, 13; June, 1; July, 6; August, 3; September, 2; October, 4; November, 3; and December, 6. From this it appears that there is a definite concentration of births in the months of February and March.

According to Crandall (1964) fawns may be born at any season and the distribution of 225 births at New York Zoological Park was as follows: January, 8; February, 15; March, 30; April, 21; May, 30; June, 25; July, 27; August, 16; September, 18; October, 17; November, 17; and December, 1. Asdell (1964) states that in Ceylon young are born throughout the year but the majority at the beginning; at Woburn most fawns are born between Christmas and Easter and in London Zoo

[1]Abstract submitted to Indian Science Congress, 58th Session held at Bangalore in January, 1971, in the Zoology Section.